



**Department of
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land & Water Quality Sept. 1999**

O&M Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators, and associated persons

Gator Stock 99 Update

Thank you all very much for your participation in the fundraiser "Gator Stock".

The day started out with rain and there was a fear that the event would resemble a true gator's mud hole. But the sun came out and people started showing up.

The admission price bought you grilled food and a drink. The cooks were Wayne From Maine and Andre. Thank you very much for being such good cooks for us for the day. The dunk tank had been set up Friday evening, so the water was not really that warm, but I can tell you from personal experience, it felt real refreshing during the afternoon heat. I want to thank Matt Hight for being the first to try the WET seat. Oh, by the way, Matt, do I have to file a 49 form on the test results of the tank when it was emptied on Sunday? Mac Richardson was our second volunteer. Mac came dressed for the occasion in a dress shirt and tie. Three of the team members were also dunked.

There was a huge gator cake, but alas no gator meat. We found the price to be just too high, \$13.50 per pound. Maybe we will just have to snag a couple of those gators when we are down South and winter store them. Anyone want to donate bathtub storage area??

The gathering was great. "Beyond Reason" played music for us and there were some people dancing. But the thunder and lightning storm did make the band stop playing. Especially when the rain started to run down through their equipment.

Again thank you all very much for your support for the trip to New Orleans. We would like to see a couple of new teams start up from Maine next year. The operator challenge is fun and does have a real value in what you learn.

Hope the summer casual cookout continues to be tradition in Maine. This allows us to talk shop or not and allows our families to meet each other and complain about our talking shop. See you next summer for "I Don't Know Yet" -Stock '00.

Pump Fiction

Tina Darrell

Operator Exchange

It is time again to exchange an operator with our fellow New England states. This year Maine is exchanging with Vermont.

We are asking for a volunteer to be the Maine exchange operator. The person would be going to Vermont the first week in November. The

exchange program has been going on for some years now and every operator I have talked to that has participated has really enjoyed the program. The program is open to all wastewater operators in the state, no matter what their position is or the type of facility they work in. We hope to see a long list of volunteers.

If you are not familiar with this exchange program here is a real quick look at what happens. A State Exchange coordinator sets up a tour route, lodging, meals, a meeting with some of the state's Wastewater Association Executive Committee, and attendance at that state's convention.

The Vermont operator and his wife will be coming into Maine on Monday, September 20th. Mr. Bob Alling has very graciously opened his home as a place for Mr. Riddell and his wife to stay for Monday and Tuesday night. Tuesday the tour begins with the Bethel WWTP and then on to Sunday River Resort WWTP, and ending the day in the Norway/Paris facility. Wednesday, the Riddells will be off to Rumford where they will meet Mr. Frenchy Guevremot, who will tour the Rumford WWTP with them. After this tour they are all to the Rangeley WWTP. The Riddells will spend the night in Rangeley and Thursday will be going up to Sugarloaf with Frenchy Guevremot to attend the MWWCA fall convention.

Vermont has a similar type tour itinerary set up for our Maine operator. But we don't have any volunteers at this time. Please call me to ask questions about this program, or to volunteer to be our exchange operator. This is a great opportunity to see other facilities and discuss operations, lab issues, sludge issues, problems and innovative solutions with other operators outside our state.

Please call Tina Darrell at 439-4646. Thank you in advance for your interest in participating in this program.

Tina Darrell

EPA DMR QA Study #19 Update?

It has been very difficult to keep you up-to-date on this study. Circumstances seem to change almost daily so as soon as an update appears in the O&M News on the current situation a new direction is soon taken.

Here is the current situation [subject to change] at the time of publication of this newsletter:

- The wet test portion of the study is going forward as in past studies. However, I understand there has been a delay in the delivery of the toxicity wet test samples to some of the labs. Because of this, laboratory results report due dates to permittees and permittee results report due dates to the EPA are being pushed further back into the fall as opposed to those dates first announced last spring. The latest information from the EPA indicates that Permittee results reports to the EPA are now due November 15, 1999. Use the toxicity Permittee Data Report Forms you received in the initial study announcement last spring to report your final results to the EPA. Your lab should report the results to you by October 8, 1999. The only thing at this time that the permittee should have done is to insure that your contract toxicity lab had ordered and will do the type of toxicity test that you are required to do by your NPDES permit on your behalf.
- As far as the Chemistry QA Sample part of QA Study #19 goes, it may go forward or it may not. At one time, the EPA drafted a letter that cancelled this portion of the study, but now I hear that the EPA is reconsidering the cancellation decision. The list of approved laboratories has not been finalized

yet. All you can do at this time is to await final word from the EPA on the Chemistry part of the study. Ordering samples from a lab that might be approved is premature, because this part of the study may be cancelled and/or the lab you order the samples from may not become NIST approved. If you have already done this, perhaps your efforts will turn out all right in the end if this part of the study does go forward and the lab you used does get eventual approval. At any rate, your voluntary participation will turn out to be a useful check on your lab procedures.

You should have received a letter from the EPA dated August 26 that outlines the current situation as described above.

Stay tuned!

[David Dodge at 287-7659]

Fall 1999 Exam

The fall 1999 Wastewater Operator Certification Exam will be given Wednesday -- November 17, 1999 in the usual locations, South Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle. Application must be submitted to us by October 1, 1999. Applications can be obtained by contacting Leslie Rucker at 287-9031 or by writing to Wastewater Operator Certification Program, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017.

For Practice

1. Electrical power is measured in
 - a. coulombs
 - b. volts
 - c. amps
 - d. watts
2. A proportional control valve

- a. is always fully open or fully closed
 - b. is limited in its range of travel
 - c. can travel from fully closed to fully open depending on the input signal
 - d. can only open half-way
3. The typical person uses about how much water every day?
 - a. 5 – 10 gallons
 - b. 20 –50 gallons
 - c. 75 – 125 gallons
 - d. more than 150 gallons
4. How long will it take to fill a tank 6 feet wide by 12 feet long by 3 feet deep if water is flowing in at the rate of 54 gallons/minute?
 - a. 10 minutes
 - b. 15 minutes
 - c. 20 minutes
 - d. 30 minutes

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

September 10, 1999 in Kittery, ME, Complying with NPDES Metal Limits – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by NEIETC (978) 323-7929.

September 14, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Electric Utility Deregulation, What does it mean to you? – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2539.

September 15, 1999 in Madawaska, ME, Respiratory Protection – New Final Rule – approved for 3.5 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

September 29, 1999 in West Rockport, ME, Respiratory Protection – New Final Rule – approved for 3.5 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

September 29, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Pump Application, Selection and Maintenance –

approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

September 30, 1999 in Howland, ME, Pump Application, Selection and Maintenance – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 19 & November 5, 1999 in Auburn, ME, Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants – Vol. 1 “The Sacramento Course” – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 5, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer and VFD’s – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 6, 1999 in East Vassalboro, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer and VFD’s – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 7, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer and VFD’s – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 7, 1999 in Lewiston, ME, New Biosolids Regulations – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

October 15, 1999 in Brunswick, ME, Seals, Coatings and Repair Materials – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

October 15, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Pump Application, Selection and Maintenance – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 20, 1999 in Kittery, ME, Troubleshooting Wastewater Treatment Plants – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

October 20, 1999 in Bingham, ME, Respiratory Protection – New Final Rule – approved for 3.5 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 22, 1999 in Brunswick, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade I/II – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

October 26, 1999 in Portland, ME, Odor Control – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

October 27, 1999 in Augusta, ME, Implementing an Integrated Contingency Plan and Environmental Management Systems – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

October 27, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade I/II – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 1, 1999 in Bangor, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade I/II – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 2, 1999 in Portland, ME, Using Computerized Spreadsheets in Wastewater Process Control – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

November 2, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade III/IV – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 3, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Respiratory Protection – New Final Rule – approved for 3.5 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 4, 1999 in Skowhegan, ME, Pump Application, Selection and Maintenance – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 9, 1999 in Waterville, ME, Basic Laboratory Procedures – approved for 5.0 hours, sponsored by NEIETC (978) 323-7929.

November 10, 1999 in Bangor, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade III/IV – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 12, 1999 in Brunswick, ME, Wastewater Operator Certification Review Grade III/IV – approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by Maine Rural Water (207) 729-6569.

November 30, 1999 in Skowhegan, ME, The Use of Selectors to Improve Activated Sludge Operation – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

December 2, 1999 in Bangor, ME, Using Computerized Databases in WWTP – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

December 9, 1999 in Waterville, ME, Troubleshooting Aerated Lagoons – approved for 5.0 hours, sponsored by NEIETC (978) 323-7929.

December 16, 1999 in Augusta, ME, Ambient Water Quality Sampling & Biomonitoring – approved for 6 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2649

2. c. A proportional valve can be controlled to stay at any position between fully closed and fully open by a signal from some other device.
3. c. the average per capita (per person) water use is about 100 gallons per day.
- 4 .d. The volume of the tank is $6 \text{ ft} \times 12 \text{ ft} \times 3 \text{ ft} = 216 \text{ cu.ft.}$
Multiply this number by $7.5 \text{ gal/cu.ft} = 1,620 \text{ gallons}$
Divide this result by $54 \text{ gal/min} = \underline{30}$
minutes

Answers to *For Practice*:

1. d. The unit used to measure electrical power is the watt.